

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OPORTO 00056 01 OF 02 240943Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/061 W

-----013856 240949Z /20

R 231200Z FEB 78

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1074

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OPORTO 0056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: WEEKEND POLITICS IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL

REF: OPORTO 0033

1. SUMMARY: PSD AND CDS LEADERS SPENT THE PAST WEEKEND IN THE NORTH CLARIFYING CURRENT PARTY POLICIES TO RESPECTIVE RANK AND FILE IN A SERIES OF DISTRICT MEETINGS. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC STANDARD BEARER SOUSA FRANCO SPOKE TWICE EMPHASIZING HIS AGREEMENT WITH EX-PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO ON "ALL MAJOR POLICY CONSIDERATIONS." SOUSA FRANCO DENIED RUMORS OF ANY NORTH-SOUTH PSD SPLIT ALTHOUGH THE PARTY IS TRYING TO AVOID AN ELECTION CONTEST FOR CONTROL OF THE OPORTO PSD DISTRICT COMMISSION. FOR THE FIRST TIME RIGHT WING YOUTHS FROM MIRN TRIED TO DISRUPT A CDS MEETING. SUCH EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES FROM THE FAR-RIGHT MAY ONLY STRENGTHEN CDS PARTY UNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. PSD FENCH MENDING. SOUSA FRANCO SPOKE FEBRUARY 18 AND 19 AT PSD DISTRICT MEETINGS IN BRAGA AND VIANA IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL PARTY ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH SINCE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FIFT H PARTY CONGRESS. JOINING HIM ON THE PODIUM IN A SHOW OF UNITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OPORTO 00056 01 OF 02 240943Z

WERE SEVERAL LOCAL PSD FIGURES CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH EX-PRESIDENT SA CARNEIRO. SOUSA FRANCO STRESSED SEVERAL THEMES IN HIS REMARKS.

-- COMMUNISM OR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY ARE THE ONLY POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO PORTUGAL AT THE PRESENT;

-- THE ONLY GOVERNMENTAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS IN LIGHT OF WEAKNESS IN THE PS-CDS AGREEMENT WOULD BE A

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION WITH PS/PSD/CDS PARTICIPATION;

- RUMORS OF ANY NORTH-SOUTH PSD SPLIT ARE UNFOUNDED; AND
- HE AND SA CARNEIRO WERE IN AGREEMENT ON ALL MAJOR

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOUSA FRANCO WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND APPLAUDED.

3. WHERE THERE'S SMOKE. A POSSIBLE NORTHERN CHALLENGE TO THE FIFTH PARTY CONGRESS RESULTS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FORESTALLED. OPORTO PRESS CLAIMED LAST WEEK THAT A CONTEST WAS BREWING FOR CONTROL OF THE OPORTO PSD DISTRICT COMMISSION. TWO LISTS OF CANDIDATES WERE BEING PREPARED, ONE HEADED BY VEIRA DE CUNHA HELD RESPONSIBLE IN SOME LOCAL PSD CIRCLES FOR SOUSA FRANCO'S VICTORY (SEE REFTEL PARA 5) AND THE OTHER LED BY A POPULAR OPORTO PARTY FIGURE AND FORMER VICE GOVERNOR. THE LATTER SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED HE WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR THE JOB BECAUSE OF "BUSINESS OBLIGATIONS AND FOR THE SAKE OF PARTY UNITY." A SINGLE LIST IS THEREFORE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED.

4. COMMENT. SOME LOCAL PSD PARTY REGULARS ARE STILL UNHAPPY OVER SA CARNEIRO'S FATE. HOWEVER, SUCH DISSATISFACTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PARTY ACTIVITIES AT LEAST IN YOUTH AFFAIRS. THE PARTY YOUTH WING (PSD) WON A SURPRISING PLURALITY IN FIRST ROUND VOTING LAST WEEK IN THE COIMBRA UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION OVER COMMUNIST AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OPORTO 00056 01 OF 02 240943Z

ULTRA-LEFT SLATES. THE ASSOCIATION IS COIMBRA'S LARGEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND A LONG TIME COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD. COMMUNISTS ULTIMATELY WON A RAZOR THIN VICTORY WITH SOCIALIST AND ULTRA-LEFT SUPPORT PLUS REPORTED "CEMETARY" VOTES FROM FORMER STUDENTS WHO STILL RETAIN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OPORTO 00056 02 OF 02 240931Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/061 W

-----013789 240957Z /20

R 231200Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1075
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OPORTO 0056

5. MIRN DISRUPTS CDS MEETING. TWO DOZEN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTHS CLAIMING AFFILIATION IN KAUZA DE ARRIAGA'S MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (MIRN) HECKLED AMARO DE COSTA DURING FEBRUARY 18 OPORTO CENTER DEMOCRATIC MEETING. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS THE MIRN YOUTHS ACCUSED THE CDS OF BETRAYING ITS IDEALS, PRAISED SALAZAR AND REPEATEDLY SHOUTED ABOUT THE 300,000 CASUALTIES CAUSED WHEN PORTUGAL GAVE UP ITS OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS. COSTA URGED THE YOUTHS TO FACE THE FUTURE AND FORGET PAST FANTASIES. THE MIRN GROUP RESPONDED WITH NAZI SALUTES AND CONTINUED SHOUTING OUTSIDE. AT FEBRUARY 19 PARTY DINNER, COSTA EMPHASIZED TWO CDS PRIORITIES:

- PARTY UNITY; AND
- EFFECTIVENESS IN GOVERNMENT ACTION.

COSTA ALSO CRITICIZED SOUSA FRANCO FOR HIS NEW "US OR THE DEVIL" THEME AND REPUDIATED PSD CHARGES THAT THE 2ND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT RESULTED FROM AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION.

6. COMMENT: CDS ALSO FEELS THE NEED TO KEEP ITS NORTHERN SUPPORTERS IN LINE OVER THE ISSUE OF THE PS-CDS AGREEMENT. THE JOB WILL BE EASIER IF MIRN CONTINUES ITS ATTACKS FROM THE FAR RIGHT. MIRN JUST ANNOUNCED OPENING ITS SECOND OVERSEAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OPORTO 00056 02 OF 02 240931Z

OFFICE IN PARIS. THE FIRST TO OPEN WAS IN JOHANNESBURG TWO MONTHS AGO. PENNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TENURE OF OFFICE, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OPORTO00056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-1114
Format: TEL
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780222/aaaaaspr.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 635a9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 OPORTO 33
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3506141
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKEND POLITICS IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/635a9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014